Religion in the Secular City

FORTNIGHTLY CLUB

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THIS IS AN UNUSUAL PRIVILEGE FOR ME. I HAVE BEEN INTRIGUED TO LEARN ABOUT THIS ORGANIZATION AND ITS FASCINATING BEGINNINGS. I HAVE ADMIRED YOUR HANDSOME BUILDING WHICH IS ONE OF THE PRICELESS INSTITUTIONS WHICH GRACE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND MAKES THESE SEVERAL SQUARE BLOCKS PERHAPS THE MOST LIVABLE AND LIVELY URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE COUNTRY. AND I HAVE ENJOYED ON OCCASION A RECEPTION OR DINNER INSIDE AS WELL.

BUT MOST OF ALL I LIKE BEING HERE BECAUSE THE REASON I'M HERE IS THAT I'M MARRIED TO A MEMBER. THAT SHOE HAS BEEN ON THE OTHER FOOT FOR MOST OF OUR YEARS TOGETHER. AS A MEMBER OF WHAT USED TO

BE AN OVERWHELMINGLY MALE PROFESSION IN WHICH CLERGY SPOUSE MEANT CLERGY WIFE, AND IN A PROFESSION WHERE THERE ARE OCCASIONALLY ALL SORTS OF EXPECTATIONS ABOUT THE ROLE OF CLERGY WIFE - (ALL THE WAY FROM A KIND OF PUBLIC MODEL OF PARENTHOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY - ("DID YOU SEE WHAT HER KIDS DID LAST SUNDAY?") TO CONSCRIPTED SECRETARY, TO SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER AND WOMEN'S GUILD OFFICER - DEAR SUE HAS, OVER THE YEARS, DONE MORE THAN A FEW THINGS SHE DIDN'T NECESSARILY VOLUNTEER TO DO, BECAUSE OF MY JOB. SO I'M HAPPY TO BE HERE BECAUSE ~~I'M COMMITTED~~ of one of her projects. ~~TO HER AND BECAUSE OF HER COMMITMENT~~.

... ALTHOUGH FOR THIS INVERSION TO BE TOTALLY ACCURATE, SHE OUGHT TO BE TALKING, AND I OUGHT TO BE SITTING THERE TRYING TO LOOK INTERESTED IN IDEAS AND WORDS I'VE HEARD A THOUSAND TIMES BEFORE.

which is what I'm
2
been doing to her
for 30 years -

TO BE PERFECTLY CANDID, ACTUALLY, IF SHE AND I HAVE LEARNED ANYTHING OVER THE MORE THAN THREE DECADES WE'VE BEEN AT THIS, IT IS THE "ROLE" OF CLERGY SPOUSE - OR ANYBODY'S SPOUSE FOR THAT MATTER, IS NOT MUCH OF A FOUNDATION FOR ORGANIZING YOUR LIFE, ESTABLISHING YOUR PRIORITIES, OR BEING HAPPY. SO SHE HAS SIMPLY REFUSED TO BE A MINISTER'S WIFE. SHE IS SIMPLY WHO SHE IS AND THAT HAS BEEN MORE THAN ENOUGH - AND IT HAS WORKED.

SO - I'M PLEASED TO BE HERE. AND I CONFESS THAT I'VE RECENTLY WONDERED WHAT POSSIBLY I MIGHT SAY THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO YOU. DID YOU EVER NOTICE HOW A TOPIC FOR A SPEECH YOU ARE PLANNING TO MAKE SOUNDS WITTY, ELOQUENT AND ENGAGING SIX MONTHS IN ADVANCE, BUT WHEN THE TIME COMES TO PREPARE THE SPEECH YOU WONDER WHAT IN THE WORLD YOU

HAD IN MIND? SUSAN BOYD AND I AGREED ON THE TOPIC "RELIGION IN THE SECULAR CITY" LAST MAY AFTER TRYING SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES, AND I KNOW SHE HAD AN UNBREAKABLE ENGAGEMENT WHICH PREVENTED HERE FROM BEING HERE. NEVERTHELESS ONE WONDERS WHETHER SUSAN HAD SECOND THOUGHTS.

NEVERTHELESS, IT IS AN IMPORTANT TOPIC, ONE WHICH CLAIMS THE INTEREST OF THE SCHOLARS WHO OBSERVE, ANALYZE AND CRITIQUE OUR CULTURE, AND IT POPS UP IN LOTS OF INTERESTING WAYS. IT IS, OF COURSE, A MAJOR CONCERN FOR ME, AND FOR ANYONE CONNECTED WITH AN "OFFICIALLY" RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION IN THE CITY.

I PROPOSE TO TALK ABOUT IT A BIT AND THEN TO FOCUS ON HOW THE PARTICULAR INSTITUTION I SERVE, FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LIVES OUT ITS LIFE AND ITS SELF UNDERSTANDING, IN THE FASCINATING CITY

BLOCK ON MICHIGAN AVENUE BETWEEN DELAWARE PLACE AND CHESTNUT.

A WARNING... MY GROWN CHILDREN MEASURE VERY CAREFULLY THE QUESTIONS THEY ASK OF ME. IT'S A FAMILY JOKE NOW. I'M INCLINED TO GO ON A BIT, AND TELL THEM MORE THAN THEY REALLY WANT TO KNOW.. LIKE THE LITTLE BOY WHO ASKED ONE DAY, "MAMA, WHERE DID I COME FROM?" SHE KNEW THE MOMENT HAD ARRIVED, THE MOMENT SHE HAD DREADED AND THOUGHT ABOUT AND READ ABOUT AND REHEARSED IN HER MIND. THAT AWFUL BUT WONDERFUL MOMENT WHEN SHE WOULD TELL HER SON ABOUT SEX AND HOW CONCEPTION HAPPENS AND BIRTH AND HUMAN LOVE AND ~~intimacy~~ SO, AS ALL THE MANUALS INSTRUCTED HER, SHE LIFTED HIM ON HER LAP AND TOLD HIM WHAT HAPPENS AND HOW IT HAPPENED AND HOW VERY MUCH SHE AND HIS DADDY LOVED EACH OTHER. AND AT THE END HE SAID: "I DON'T WANT TO KNOW

ABOUT THAT STUFF. WHERE DID I COME FROM? WAS IT PITTSBURGH OR PHILADELPHIA?"

SO JUST LET ME KNOW IF I'M REALLY TELLING YOU MORE THAN YOU WANT TO HEAR - OR IT BEING SIESTA TIME THE WORLD OVER, EXCEPT IN AMERICA, DO FEEL FREE TO DROP OFF FOR A WHILE.

RELIGION IN THE SECULAR CITY.

SECULAR - "OF OR RELATING TO THE WORLDLY OR TEMPORAL"

SECULARISM - "INDIFFERENCE TO OR REJECTION OR EXCLUSION OF RELIGION AND RELIGIOUS CONSIDERATIONS."

THE TERM ITSELF CAME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SCHOLARLY COMMUNITY IN THE TITLE OF A VERY POPULAR BOOK BY HARVARD PROFESSOR HARVEY COX. HIS TITLE WAS THE SECULAR CITY. IN THE 60S EVERYBODY WAS READING AND QUOTING FROM IT. COX, WHOSE BASIC BUSINESS IS TEACHING THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY AT THE

DIVINITY SCHOOL AT HARVARD, SAW AS HIS TITLE SUGGESTS, THE AMERICAN CITY ON THE WAY TO BECOMING FREE OF RELIGION. AFTER 2,000 YEARS OF EXISTING UNDER THE CANOPY OF A HEAVEN OCCUPIED BY A GOD EVERYONE MORE OR LESS ACKNOWLEDGED, AND OFTEN AN ECCLESIASTICAL SYSTEM THAT WAS THE REAL SOURCE OF POLITICAL POWER, WESTERN CIVILIZATION WAS FINALLY EMERGING SANS RELIGION - AND BETTER FOR IT.

BY MID TWENTIETH CENTURY, AMERICAN CULTURE SEEMED WELL ON ITS WAY TO BECOMING SECULAR. ON THE SURFACE OF THINGS - THERE WERE FEWER AND FEWER PUBLICLY RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS AND GESTURES. ~~THEY~~ MIGHT STILL HAVE AN INVOCATION BEFORE A HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAME IN RURAL TEXAS, BUT THE PRACTICE WAS FADING. LANDMARK SUPREME COURT DECISIONS, BASED ON THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION GUARANTEEING FREEDOM OF

RELIGION OR FREEDOM FROM RELIGION TO ALL, FINALLY PROHIBITED READING THE BIBLE AND PRAYING IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THAT ANGERED A LOT OF PEOPLE AND STILL DOES. A LOT OF PEOPLE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT AND STILL DON'T. PARTICULARLY DISTRESSING WAS THE FACT THAT THE MAINLINE CHURCHES AGREED - IN FACT ~~INTEND~~ ENTERED FRIEND OF THE COURT BRIEFS. THE PRESBYTERIANS, METHODISTS, EPISCOPALIANS WERE SAYING THEY THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA, NOT A BAD ONE, TO TAKE RELIGION OUT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION. IT IS STILL OUR POSITION. MADELINE MURRAY O'HARE FORMED AN ORGANIZATION AND ATTACKED ALL ALONG THE FRONT OF PUBLIC SPONSORED RELIGION: "IN GOD WE TRUST" ON COINS, CHAPLAINS IN THE ARMED SERVICES AND CONGRESS, THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM OVER THE COURT HOUSE AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN HIGH SCHOOL ASSEMBLY. THAT BATTLE CONTINUES, BUT AT

THE TIME MANY CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS NOT SO MUCH A REFINEMENT AND EXTENSION OF A BASIC FREEDOM CONTAINED IN OUR BILL OF RIGHTS SO MUCH AS IT WAS A GENERAL TURNING AWAY FROM GOD AND RELIGION.

DURING THE EISENHOWER YEARS CONGRESS HAD PUT "UNDER GOD" IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. THE 60S SEEMED TO REMOVE GOD FROM THE COMMON LIFE.

~~AND~~ PERHAPS, FINALLY, IT WAS VIETNAM AND THE NOW RECOGNIZABLE COLLAPSE OF PUBLIC TRUST IN THE INSTITUTIONS OF OUR CULTURE, WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION THAT AUTHORIZED THE WAR WAS BASED ON AN EVENT IN THE GULF OF TONKIN THAT DID NOT HAPPEN, THAT MILITARY LEADERS, POLITICIANS, INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS, EDUCATORS, WERE NOT TELLING THE TRUTH, OR WERE NOT ABLE TO SEE THE TRUTH... THERE WAS SOMETHING TAKEN AWAY FROM THE SOUL OF THE NATION, WHICH IT

HAS NOT RECOVERED: BASIC TRUST. AND SO THOSE WHO LOOK AT US CAREFULLY, POETS AND ARTISTS FOR INSTANCE, SAW A CULTURE WITH NO CONSENSUS, NO ULTIMATE VALUES, NO HEART, NO SOUL. IT WAS NO COINCIDENCE THAT THE CHURCHES WHICH WERE FULL AND GROWING IN THE 50S BEGAN TO SHRINK AND TO GET NOTICEABLY OLDER - AS A WHOLE GENERATION DROPPED OUT.

DEEPER STILL - [redacted] WESTERN SCHOLARS HAD BEEN PREDICTING THE DEMISE OF RELIGION. THERE WAS, IN THE UNIVERSITY, A VERY RESPECTABLE SECULARISM IN FACT, SO [redacted] SERIOUS SCHOLARS ARGUED THAT SCHOLARSHIP IS, BY DEFINITION, SECULAR.

KARL MARX LOOKED AT THE SLUMS OF INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION LONDON AND SAID THAT RELIGION WAS A KIND OF NARCOTIC, WHICH LULLED EXPLOITED PEOPLE INTO DOCILITY WITH PROMISES OF AN AFTER LIFE.

"RELIGION," SAID MARX, "WAS THE OPIATE OF THE PEOPLE" AND PREDICTED THAT IN THE NEW CLASSLESS SOCIETY WHICH WAS COMING, RELIGION WAS A VESTIGE OF PRIVILEGE AND WOULD DISAPPEAR.

SIGMUND FREUD FIGURED GOD WAS MERELY A PROJECTION OF EVERY INFANT'S BASIC FEAR. WHEN HUMAN BEINGS BECAME HEALTHY THEY WOULDN'T NEED GOD. WHEN HUMAN SOCIETY BECAME HEALTHY THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR RELIGION.

FRIEDRICH NIETSCHE ANNOUNCED THE DEATH OF GOD A CENTURY BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IT ON THE COVER OF *TIME* (1966) AND FROM WITHIN THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY THEOLOGIANS, LIKE COX, AND DIETRICK BONHOFFER, WERE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING CALLED "RELIGIONLESS CHRISTIANITY" - SECULAR RELIGION; COMMITMENT

TO THE HUMAN COMMUNITY, TO LIBERATION, PEACE AND JUSTICE, WITHOUT THE TRAPPINGS OF INSTITUTIONAL RELIGION.

WHAT EFFECT WAS ALL THIS HAVING? IT'S A LITTLE difficult TO DISCERN. BUT FOR ONE THING, MEMBERSHIP IN A CHURCH WAS NO LONGER A PREREQUISITE FOR SOCIAL RESPECTABILITY, GOOD BUSINESS OR POLITICAL SUCCESS. IN FACT, IN A PERIOD OF TWO DECADES OR SO, IN SOME CASES, TAKING RELIGION SERIOUSLY MOVED FROM ASSET TO LIABILITY.

LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION, FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS THE DOMAIN OF THE MAINLINE CHURCHES, WOULD DISTINCTLY MOVE AWAY FROM ITS RELIGIOUS ROOTS. THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO HAD LONG SINCE SEPARATED ITSELF FROM ITS BAPTIST FOUNDATIONS FORMALLY - BUT NOW MANY IF NOT MOST

FORMER CHURCH SCHOOLS ~~FIND~~ Found IT IMPORTANT TO DEEMPHASIZE IF NOT DROP ALTOGETHER THE CHURCH CONNECTION.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION ITSELF, REFLECTED THAT ~~MORE~~ MOVE. PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY FOCUSED ON SECULAR CULTURE NOT SACRED RITUAL. WE LEARNED PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY AS WELL AS BIBLE AND THEOLOGY. COURSES ON PREACHING WERE REPLACED WITH SEMINARS IN GROUP DYNAMICS. AND PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY WANTED TO BECOME MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH WERE ADVISED TO BE PREPARED TO COMBINE MINISTRY WITH SOME OTHER ACTIVITY WHICH WOULD PROVIDE ADEQUATE INCOME. WE EVEN HAVE A TERM FOR IT - IT'S CALLED "TENT MAKING MINISTRY" AFTER ST. PAUL WHO APPARENTLY SUPPORTED HIMSELF BETWEEN MISSIONARY JOURNEYS BY MAKING TENTS.

WELL - YOU KNOW OF COURSE ABOUT THAT WONDERFUL INCIDENT IN THE LIFE OF MARK TWAIN. A NEWSPAPER PRINTED HIS OBITUARY BY ACCIDENT. TWAIN HEARD ABOUT IT AND WROTE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR. "THE REPORT OF MY DEMISE IS SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED," HE SAID.

AND SO - REPORTS OF THE DEMISE OF RELIGION ARE EXAGGERATED.

IN FACT, TWENTY YEARS AFTER *THE SECULAR CITY*, HARVEY COX WROTE ANOTHER ONE. AND AGAIN EVERYBODY READ IT AND QUOTED FROM IT. IT'S TITLE -*RELIGION IN THE SECULAR CITY.* COX MADE IT ONTO THE COVER OF THE *NEW YORK TIMES* SUNDAY MAGAZINE. HIS HARVARD COURSE ON CHRISTIANITY AND WESTERN CIVILIZATION WAS THE MOST POPULAR ON CAMPUS - HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS, NO CLASSROOM BIG ENOUGH, WAS MEETING IN THE AUDITORIUM.

WHAT HAPPENED?

FOR ONE THING:

1. A WORLD-WIDE RESURGENCE OF FUNDAMENTALISM -

CHRISTIAN, JEWISH, MOSLEM

ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST REVOLUTION IN IRAN AND THROUGHOUT THE MUSLEM WORLD.

JEWISH FUNDIES HAVE ~~HER~~ THE EAR OF GOVERNMENT AND IN MANY WAYS ARE MOST POWERFUL LOBBY IN MIDDLE EAST.

.. A VARIETY OF CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALISTS, ALL OBJECT OF MAJOR MEM STUDY.

2. AN EXPLOSION OF MARGINAL RELIGIONS, OFTEN FROM OTHER ~~S~~ MAINLY EASTERN CULTURES.

MOONIES

Hari KRISHNAS

EASTERN MYSTICISM + HINDUISM

-CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT - IN . . . .

AMERICA PENTECOSTALISM BUT

ALSO ROMAN CATHOLIC AND

MAINLINE.

-NEW ~~EVANGELISM~~ - Evangelicalism

TELEVANGELISTS AND their

ENORMOUS CLOUT (Political + financial)

FALWELL, ROBERTSON - run for President

SWAGGERT -

GRAHAM AND SCHULLER

(IN CLASS BY THEMSELVES)

3. SPIRITUAL RESURGENCE WORLD-WIDE

OFTEN IN THE MIDDLE OF POLITICAL UPHEAV-

AL.

-SOLIDARITY IN POLAND - based in church

-SOVIET CHURCH 1,000 YEARS

-ROMANIA AND LASLO TOEKES

-CHINESE CHURCH EMERGES AFTER 40

YEARS - STRONG, GROWING, 3

TIMES AS BIG - ~~SOVIETS~~

regions

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES -

IN CANBERRA. — 1961 seat left vacant since 1948

-AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA

CONSERVATIVE GROWTH.

-S. & C. AMERICA - ~~RENEWED~~ R.C.

BASE COMMUNITIES, LIBERATION

THEOLOGY AND PROTESTANT

EVANGELICALISM.

NOT ONLY DIDN'T DISAPPEAR - BUT

SOMETHING LIKE THE OPPOSITE.

4.) IN ART, LITERATURE, FILM, RELIGIOUS

THEMES REAPPEARED -

NOVELS AND SHORT STORIES OF

FLANNERY O'CONNOR,

RAYMOND CARVER,

JOHN UPDIKE, (~~LITTLE GUY~~ John Irving,

~~NOVELIST!~~)

ANNE DILLARD, ANN TYLER

AND ENCOURAGING NEW DIALOGUES

BETWEEN ART AND THEOLOGY -

in dance EDWARD Villela AND GEORGE

BALLANCHINE'S THE PRODIGAL

Art EXHIBITS ON SPIRITUALITY -

AND A NEW APPRECIATION

THAT ART AND SPIRITUALITY

ARE KINDREDS - SIBLINGS

PERHAPS AND THAT

SPIRITUALITY WON'T FADE

ANY MORE THAN ART WILL.

5. INTRIGUING NEW FRONTIER IS SCIENCE AND THEOLOGY.

CITE REVIEW IN NEW YORK TIMES REVIEW OF BOOKS, 2/23/92. THE ~~MIRACLE~~ Mind OF GOD, / PAUL ~~DAVIES~~ Davies, PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICAL PHYSICS AT U. OF Adelaide

reviewer said ["IT IS NOT REALLY SURPRISING THAT PHYSICISTS ARE EXPLORING ISSUES ONCE RESERVED FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS.

SCIENCE TODAY, MORE SO THAN EVER, IS ENCROACHING INTO TERRITORIES PREVIOUSLY ENTRUSTED TO THEOLOGY ALONE."

"THE LURE OF THE ETERNAL CONTINUES TO TUG AT OUR FINITE MINDS."

There is A DEFINING INCIDENT IN ROBT. COLE'S HARVARD DIARY.

HARVARD MED. SCHOOL CHILD PSYCHIATRIST

SPIRITUAL LIFE OF CHURCH BESTSELLER,

VISITED MEDICAL SCHOOL FRIEND IN HOSPITAL, DYING OF CANCER.

ANGRY PRIEST HAD JUST visited ~~CALLED~~

HAD USED ALL THE PSYCHOLOGY HE HAD BEEN TAUGHT & ~~IMAGINED~~ inquired HOW PATIENT WAS "FEELING," COPING,

MANAGING, CONFRONTING

HIS STRESS

Coles said

"MY FRIEND WANTED TO TALK ABOUT GOD AND HIS WAYS, ABOUT CHRIST AND HIS LIFE, ABOUT HEAVEN AND HELL, ONLY TO BE APPROACHED REPEATEDLY WITH PSYCHOLOGICAL WORDS AND PHRASES."

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"HE COMES IN HERE IN HIS ROMAN COLLAR AND OFFERS PSYCHOLOGICAL LEAVALITIES AS GOD'S WORD!"

DOES IT MATTER? IS THERE SOMETHING GOOD OR BAD ABOUT THE SECULARIZATION OF CULTURE OR THE RETURN OF RELIGION? IS THERE SOMETHING MISSING FROM THE HUMAN EQUATION WHEN THE SPIRITUAL IS SIMPLY ERASED, OR IN FACT IS SECULARIZATION MERELY A KIND OF "COMING OF AGE"?

I'M IN THE BUSINESS OF RELIGION AND I'M INCLINED TO LOOK FAVORABLY ON ANYTHING THAT IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS. BUT

I'M NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THAT THE ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY ABOUT THE TRUTH - WHICH IS WHAT FUNDAMENTALISM IS - IS A VERY HEALTHY PHENOMENON WHEN PEOPLE WHO ARE DIVERSE - RACIALLY, RELIGIOUSLY, CULTURALLY MUST EXIST TOGETHER.

I'M SURE THAT THE CLASH OF MOSLEM FUNDAMENTALISTS AND JEWISH FUNDAMENTALISTS IN THE NEAR EAST IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY PEACE SEEMS AS REMOTE AS EVER.

AND I'M CONVINCED THAT THE CREATIONISTS - WHO ARE FUNDAMENTALISTS MASQUERADING AS SCIENTISTS - ARE NOT ONLY WRONG - BUT A VERY DETRIMENTAL INFLUENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION.

I THINK - SECULARISM - IS A GOOD THING WHEN IT FORCES THE ISSUE OF AUTHENTIC SPIRITUALITY BY CRITIQUING ITS MORE INNOCUOUS ~~FOCUS~~ Forms. THAT IS - BY SUGGESTING THAT READING THE BIBLE AND

PRAYING IN SCHOOL IS A VIOLATION OF A BASIC CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT - NOT TO HAVE ANY RELIGION IMPOSED ON US - IT ACTUALLY RAISES THE QUESTION OF WHAT REAL PIETY - REAL PRAYER - REAL DEVOTION - MIGHT BE.

HOWEVER, WITH THESE FEW DISCLAIMERS I DO BELIEVE THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT OUR HUMANITY WHICH IS AT STAKE IN THE SECULAR CITY.

THE PROBLEM WITH SECULARISM ULTIMATELY IS NOT THAT IT IS TOO LOOSE AND GODLESS, TOO LIBERAL AND TOO BROAD - BUT THAT IT DEFINES HUMAN BEINGS TOO NARROWLY - AS PRODUCTS OF DRIVES AND HORMONES AND INSTINCTS. SECULARISM NEVER QUITE EXPLAINS SATISFACTORILY A CLAUDE MONET OR A J. S. BACH. SECULARISM DEFINES US AS CONSUMERS, FOR INSTANCE, AND NEVER ADEQUATELY EXPLAINS MOTHER THERESA OR A MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. OR A DESMOND TUTU.

MY ARGUMENT WITH SECULARISM IS THAT IT MAKES US TOO SMALL - THERE IS NO ~~GROWING~~ Glory, NO ECSTASY, NO MYSTERY.

INTERESTING THAT THOUGH THE 1980s USED THE LANGUAGE OF TRADITIONAL RELIGION AND PIETY - IT TURNED OUT TO BE AN EXPERIMENT IN SECULARISM - AN ATTEMPT TO DEFINE THE NEW AMERICAN AS A CONSUMER-PRODUCER. AND WHAT WE HAVE GOING ON NOW IS A FULL-SCALE REACTION.

IT DIDN'T WORK. IT RAN UP THE NATIONAL DEBT, MADE A FEW PEOPLE FABULOUSLY WEALTHY AND WORE THE COUNTRY OUT... LIKE A NIGHT OF TOO MUCH FOOD AND CAROUSING AND BRAWLING IN THE STREET - IT LEFT US WITH WHAT FEELS LIKE A SPIRITUAL HANGOVER - ALTHOUGH IT IS ORDINARILY DESCRIBED MORE DELICATELY THAN THEM.

SO THE RETURN OF RELIGION. ARTHUR SCHLESINGER, IN THE CYCLES OF AMERICAN

HISTORY ARGUES THAT OUR CULTURE SWINGS BACK AND FORTH IN INTERVALS OF A GENERATION OR SO BETWEEN LIBERALISM AND CONSERVATISM, LOOKING OUT AND LOOKING IN, SELFISHNESS AND GENEROSITY. . . AND, WE MIGHT PROPOSE - SECULARISM AND SPIRITUALITY.

MY ANALYSIS IS THAT WHAT HAS PROPORTED TO BE SPIRITUALITY AND PIETY - IN THE 80s - WAS ACTUALLY SECULARISM AND THAT THE REACTION IS BRINGING ABOUT A RENEWAL OF AUTHENTIC SPIRITUALITY AND RENEWED RELIGION.

JUST IN TIME, I MIGHT ADD, BECAUSE IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE HUMAN RACE - AND OUR CORNER OF IT, IS CONFRONTING SOME SPECTACULARLY DIFFICULT DILEMMAS - ALL THAT WAY FROM A HOLE IN THE OZONE WHICH IS A THREAT TO MY GRANDCHILDREN MORE SERIOUS THAN ANY THREAT BEFORE - TO AN ENTRENCHED UNDER CLASS OF POVERTY SEVER-

AL GENERATIONS DEEP - TO A WAR AGAINST DRUGS WHICH EVERY BIG CITY MAYOR AND POLICE CHIEF KNOWS WE HAVE ALREADY LOST. THE OTHER SIDE WON...

THE SOLUTIONS TO THOSE PROBLEMS WILL NOT BE EASY - THEY WILL REQUIRE ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF MONEY, COMMITMENT - AND MORE - THINGS LIKE SACRIFICE, SELF-DENIAL, LOVE - THAT IS TO SAY, SOMETHING LIKE RELIGION.

AND BECAUSE I THINK THAT IS WHERE WE ARE TODAY - I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE IN THE FRONT LINES ON ONE OF THE BUSIEST STREETS IN ONE OF THE BIGGEST CITIES ANYWHERE.

NOW A WORD ABOUT HOW THIS PLAYS OUT AT FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

APOLOGIES FOR WHAT MIGHT SOUND LIKE A COMMERCIAL - BUT SUSAN THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW A LITTLE BIT ABOUT US:...

-BEEN THERE SINCE 1914 -

-CHARACTERIZED BY RESPONSIVENESS TO ITS ENVIRONMENT...

I LIKE TO COMPARE US TO THE CATHEDRALS IN MEDIEVAL TIMES - THEN THE CATHEDRAL OFTEN CAME FIRST AND THE TOWN GREW AROUND IT -

HERE THE CITY WAS FIRST - AND THEN THE CHURCH - RESPONDING TO ITS NEIGHBORS.

PRESBYTERIANISM HISTORICALLY HAS SEEN CHURCH - NOT AS A RETREAT FROM THE WORLD - BUT IN A REAL SENSE AS A PLACE WHERE RELIGION AND LIFE MEET AND EXCHANGE VIEWS.

WE'RE NOT A CLOISTER BUT AN INTERSECTION...

LIKE THE MEDIEVAL CATHEDRAL WITH THE MERCHANT STALLS, THE VENDORS, THE JUGGLERS, THE SPEECHMAKERS - ON ITS STEPS - WE TRY TO BE A PLACE WHERE ART

AND COMMERCE AND POLITICS AND ALL SORTS OF CONDITIONS OF HUMAN BEINGS CONGREGATE.

So in addition to traditional religious activities of worship and teaching - ..

We invite the arts in + and sponsor exhibits and concerts and recitals... We have shown various kinds of sculpture, | presented jazz musicians Paul Winter and Dave Brubeck as well as CSO hornist, Dale Clevenger, | Robert Shaw. And Mya Angelou, | folk singers and dancers.. || We have staged Julian | and Amahl and the Night Visitors in our sanctuary and in several weeks will present Mother Wove the Morning written and performed by Carol Lynn Pearson.

We try to be open and welcoming to the world -

WE ARE - IN FACT - OPEN DAILY AND A STEADY STREAM COMES IN ...

ON A SATURDAY - 400-5--

WE TORE DOWN OUR HIGH HEDGES - PLANTED FLOWERS & REMOVED SOME FENCES AND BUILT A SMALL ESPLANADE IN FRONT -

WE ADDED BIRD FEEDERS AND WE TRY TO SAY THIS IS A PLACE TO LOOK INWARD AND OUTWARD.

WE ARE ALSO A QUIET SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY - OR MISSION STATION.

TUTORING 365

PARENTS . .

TONIGHT BLACK HISTORY

SOCIAL SERVICE Center

- Referrals

FOOD, CLOTHES

HOMELESS SHELTER

COA — Jan

LRCC

CABRINI ALIVE

JAIL AND HOSPITAL

PRE SCHOOL

WE ARE - A REMINDER TO THE ~~CITY~~ community OF THE FULLNESS AND BEAUTY OF THE WHOLE DIVERSE HUMAN FAMILY WHICH MAKES UP A CITY.

A NOON DAY ORGAN RECITAL FEATURING THE WORKS OF J. S. BACH AND THE HOMELESS MAN SLEEPING ON OUR STEPS - ARE BOTH IN A WAY REMINDERS OF THE COMPLEXITY OF HUMANKIND AND THE HUMAN ENTERPRISE.

AND WE A REMINDER SURROUNDED, AS WE ARE - BY -

HENRI BENDEL, BLOOMIES & 4 SEASONS

HANCOCK BUILDING

WATER TOWER PLACE

NOW L'ESCADO & FAO SCHWARZ

OF ANOTHER REALITY: WE ARE A COUNTER

CULTURE RIGHT IN THE MIDST OF A WONDER-
FUL CONCENTRATION OF COMMERCE AND CON-
SUMERISM.

I ~~LOOK~~ Love TO LOOK AT THE OLD PICTURES-
THE STREET IS FAIRLY NON-DESCRIPT -
IN FACT MY HOUSE - MANSE - SITS ON A
SPOT ONCE OCCUPIED BY A TAVERN.

THE STEEPLE DOMINATED - ROSE ABOVE
- MUCH LIKE THOSE MEDIEVAL CATHEDRALS.

TODAY, THE REVERSE - TODAY - I LIKE
TO LOOK DOWN FROM HANCOCK OBSERVATORY -
TO THE TINY CHURCH AND COURTYARD
AND ~~FARRET~~ Fountain - LIKE A JEWEL IN
THE MIDST OF ITS TOWERING
NEIGHBORS.

- A THEOLOGICAL INVERSION - BUT
STILL, PERHAPS MORE, AT THE HEART OF THE
CITY.

FUTURE?

WE'RE GROWING - 1,200 IN 1911
3,600 IN 1992

WE'RE LOOKING AT FUTURE NEEDS AND MOVING TOWARD PROVIDING FOR THEM.

-CLEAN AND RESTORE SANCTUARY

-NEED EDUCATION, RECREATION, ART SPACES.

LANDMARK - WHAT WAS IT ALL ABOUT?

RALPH ADAMS CRANE - A MASTERPIECE

-COLLABORATED WITH SHAW. Howard Van Doren -

ENGLISH GOTHIC

LANDMARK - OR HISTORICAL ~~PRESENTA~~ Preservation TION Monument . .

[illegible] - IS ONE I SUPPORT AND ADMIRE - TO INSURE FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL HAVE DISTINGUISHED ARCHITECTURE OUT OF THE PAST.

BUT WHEN THAT GOOD IMPULSE BUMPS INTO ANOTHER GOOD IDEA - NAMELY THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION FROM ALL INTERFERENCE BY THE STATE - THERE ARE COMPLICATED ISSUES TO SAY THE LEAST.

PRESBYTERIANS - ET. AL. ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THE FIRST AMENDMENT GUARANTEES AGAINST [redacted] ANY - INFLUENCE FROM STATE TAKE PRECEDENCE.

-TO DESIGNATE LANDMARK - IS ESSENTIALLY TO REMOVE THE TRUSTEESHIP - IF NOT THE OWNERSHIP, FROM ITS OWNERS - AND GIVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE. -

AND WHILE THAT MAY BE A GOOD IDEA - in some instances WE BELIEVE RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS ARE THE EXCEPTION. The issue is simple - if state has an interest in preservation - pay for it..

-SO WE ARE OPPOSED IN PRINCIPAL AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE OPPOSED.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE SALE OF, OR MOVEMENT OF FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - NOT TO SAY THE DEMOLISHING OF FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - HAS NEVER - REPEAT NEVER BEEN CONSIDERED OR DISCUSSED AND NEVER WILL BE.

WE KNOW WE HAVE A TREASURE WE HAVE MAINTAINED IT FAITHFULLY AND WILL

CONTINUE. WE HAVE THE RESOURCES TO DO SO, AND WE DON'T BELIEVE WE NEED THE HELP OF THE STATE. of city or commission.

THE ISSUE IS SIMPLE. IF THE STATE HAS AN INTEREST IN PRESERVING SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURE - THEN THE STATE MUST PAY FOR IT. PARTICULARLY WHEN IT COMES TO CHURCHES.